

ARSET

Applied Remote Sensing Training http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov



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http://egsc.usgs.gov/silvacarbon/index.html



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Remote sensing of forest cover and change assessment for carbon monitoring

Instructors: Amber McCullum, Grant Domke (USFS), Ty Wilson (USFS)

Week 3: June 23, 2016

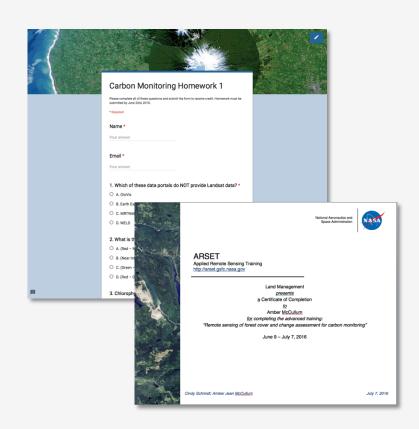


Course Structure

- One lecture per week every Thursday from June 9 to July 7 at 1:00-2:30 p.m. and 10:00-11:30 p.m. EDT (-04:00 UTC)
- Please only sign up for and attend the same session each week
 - Lectures
 - Q&A
 - Homework exercises
- Webinar recordings, PowerPoint presentations, in-class exercises, and homework assignments can be found after each session at:
 - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/ecoforecasting/webinars/carbon-monitoring-2016
 - Q&A: Following each lecture and/or by email (<u>cynthia.l.schmidt@nasa.gov</u>) or (<u>amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov</u>)

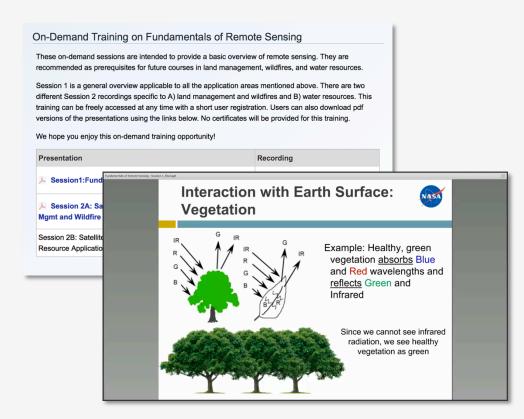
Homework and Certificates

- Homework
 - Answers must be submitted via Google Form
- Certificate of Completion:
 - Attend four out of five live webinars
 - Complete both homework assignments by the deadline (access from ARSET website above)
 - Week 2 HW Deadline: June 30th
 - You will receive certificates approximately 3 months after the completion of the course from: marines.martins@ssaihg.com



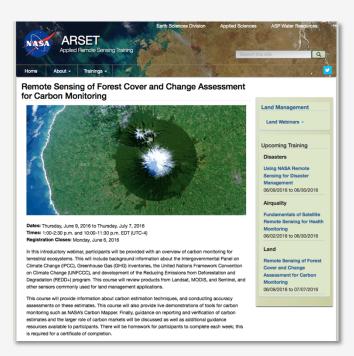
Prerequisite

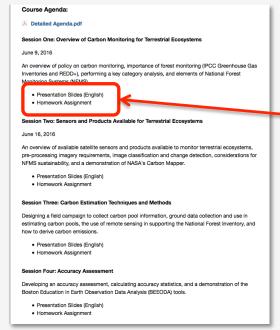
- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
 - Sessions 1 and 2A (Land)
 - On-demand webinar available anytime
 - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/ webinars/fundamentalsremote-sensing



Accessing Course Materials

https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/land/webinars/carbon-monitoring-2016





Course materials are provided here using each specified link and will be active after each week

Course Outline

Week 1

Overview of Carbon Monitoring

Week 2



Week 3

Carbon Estimation Techniques

Week 4

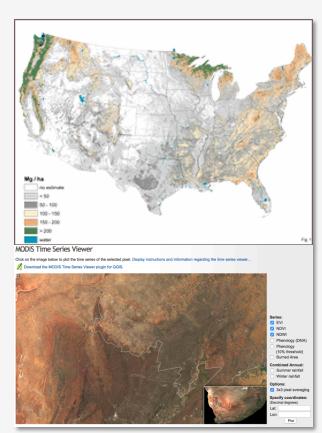


Week 5

Guidance, Reporting, Verification

Week 3 Agenda

- Role of forest carbon monitoring
- National Forest Inventory (NFI)
 - Status, trends, and sustainability of forests
- Forest carbon stock estimation and reporting
- Approaches for time series image processing and analysis
- Case study example
- Q&A



Top: Total forest carbon stocks (C Mg/ha, all pools) across the conterminous US. Image credit: USDA Forest Service. Bottom: MODIS time series viewer. Image Credit: WAMIS, http://wamis.meraka.org.za/time-series-viewer



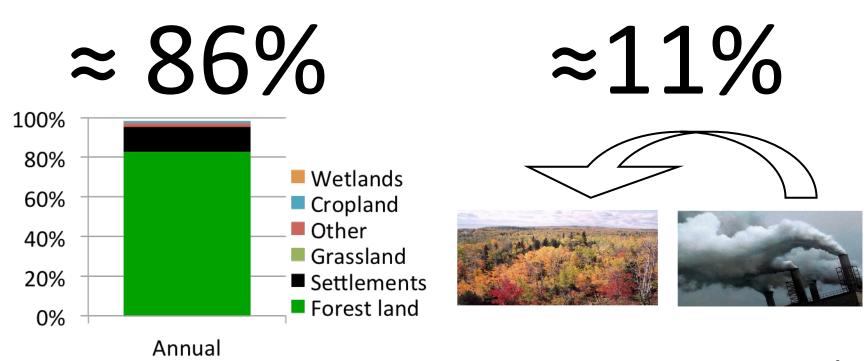
Forest carbon monitoring and reporting in the U.S.



Domke, G.M., Woodall, C.W., Walters, B.F., Smith, J.E., and many others



Importance of forest land in the U.S.



2016: (172) MMT C yr⁻¹

sequestration

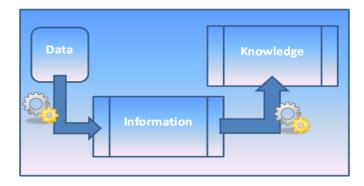
Role of forest carbon accounting

















Role of forest carbon accounting





1990 - 2013



EPA 430-R-15-004



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20460 U.S.A.





Improvements paradigm

"...inventories should contain neither over nor underestimates so far as can be judged, and the uncertainties in these estimates should be reduced as far as practicable." – IPCC



Improvements paradigm

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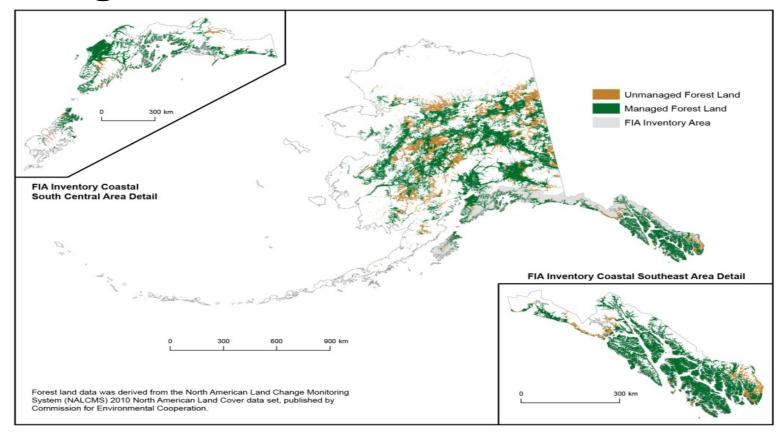
- Expand the use of in situ plots
- Integrate auxiliary information
- Align national and international reporting instruments
- Maintain transparency and open access
- Incorporate emerging science
- Build partnerships
- Remain nimble to address ever-changing requests, guidance, and stakeholder needs

Managed lands

- Only managed lands included in UNFCCC reporting
- Direct human intervention has influenced its condition
- All forest land in the CONUS is classified as managed land



Managed lands

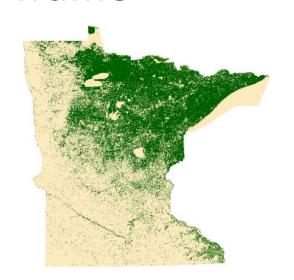


Forest land definition

Land at least 37 meters wide and at least 0.4 hectare in size with at least 10% cover (or equivalent stocking) by live trees including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated. Trees are woody plants having a more or less erect perennial stem(s) capable of achieving at least 7.6 cm in diameter at breast height, or 12.7 cm diameter at root collar, and a height of 5 meters at maturity in situ. The definition here includes all areas recently having such conditions and currently regenerating or capable of attaining such condition in the near future. Forest land also includes transition zones, such as areas between forest and nonforest lands that have at least 10% cover (or equivalent stocking) with live trees and forest areas adjacent to urban and built-up lands. Unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas are classified as forest if they are less than 37 meters wide or 0.4 hectare in size. Forest land does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

Oswalt, S.N., Smith, W.B., Miles, P.D. and Pugh, S.A., 2014. Forest Resources of the United States, 2012: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2015 update of the RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-91. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. 218 p.

National forest inventory (NFI) sampling frame



Prefield analysis

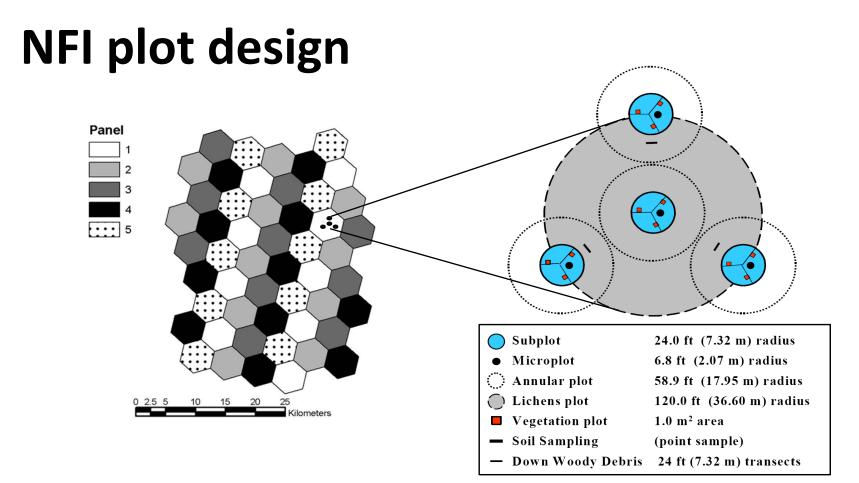


Core field
1 plot per 2,430 ha



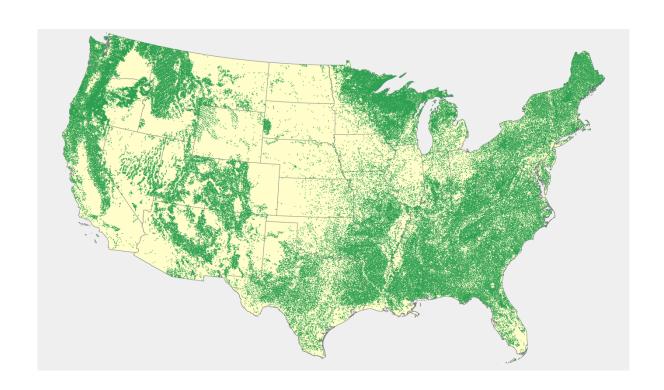
Intensive field
1 plot per 38,880 ha

Bechtold W.A. and Patterson, P.J. 2005. The enhanced Forest Inventory and Analysis program—national sampling design and estimation procedures. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-80. 85 p.



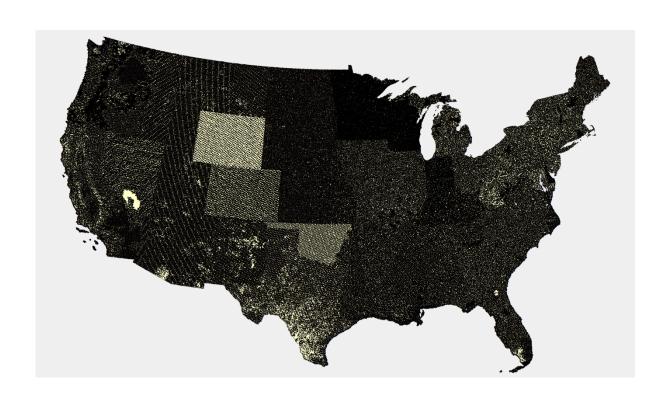
Bechtold W.A. and Patterson, P.J. 2005. The enhanced Forest Inventory and Analysis program—national sampling design and estimation procedures. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-80. 85 p.

NFI plots



NFI plots on forest land = 127,235

NFI plots

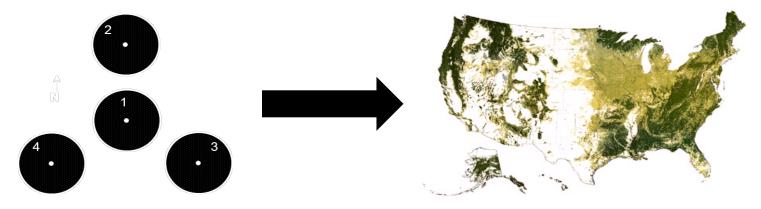


NFI plots on forest land = 127,235

All plots = **316,359**

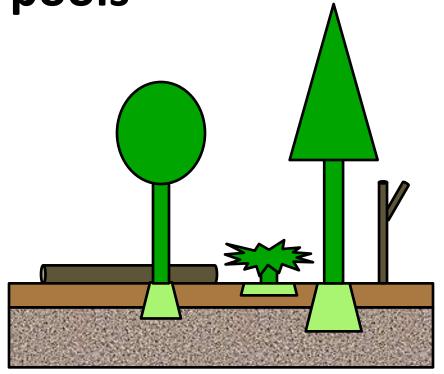
Carbon estimation

- Estimate C density at the plot level (MT·ha⁻¹)
- C stocks summed to total by inventory cycle (MMT C)
- Stock-change is difference between successive stocks divided by time interval (MMT·yr⁻¹)
- Estimates developed separately for each state or region

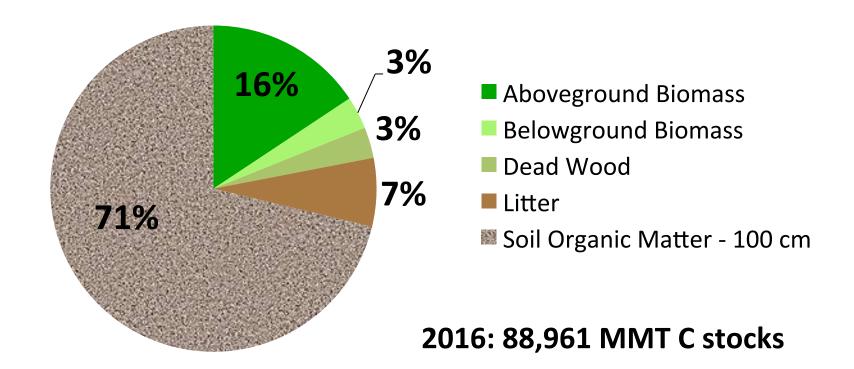


Forest ecosystem C pools

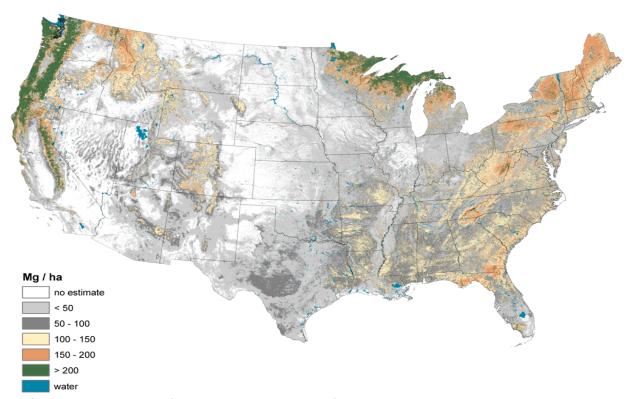
- Aboveground live biomass
- Belowground live biomass
- Dead wood
- Litter
- Soil organic matter



Forest C stocks by pool in the US

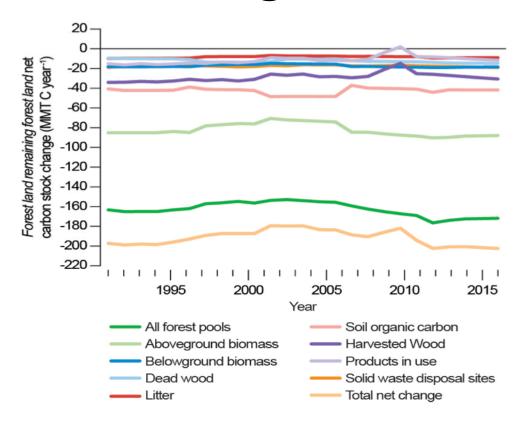


Forest C stocks in the US

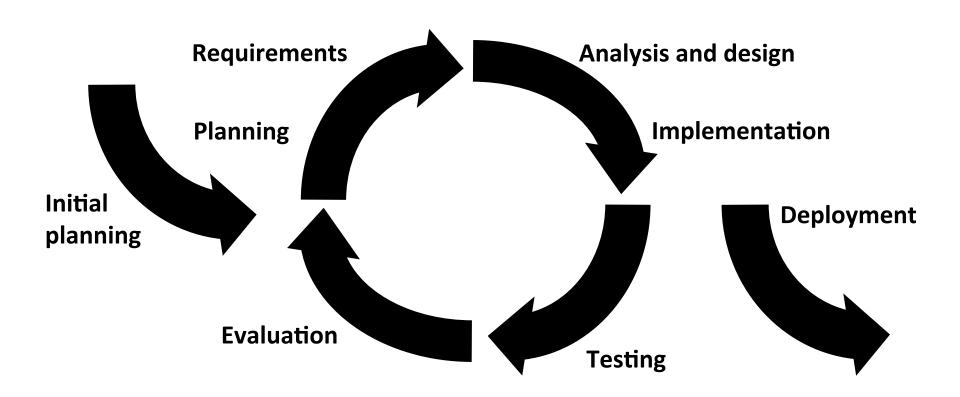


Wilson, B.T.; Woodall, C.W.; Griffith, D.M. 2013. Imputing forest carbon stock estimates from inventory plots to a nationally continuous coverage. Carbon Balance and Management. 8:1. doi:10.1186/1750-0680-8-1

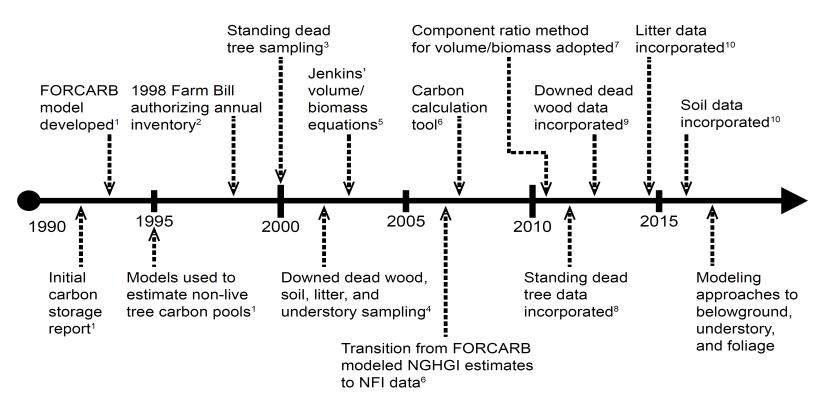
Forest C stock change



Iterative C accounting process...

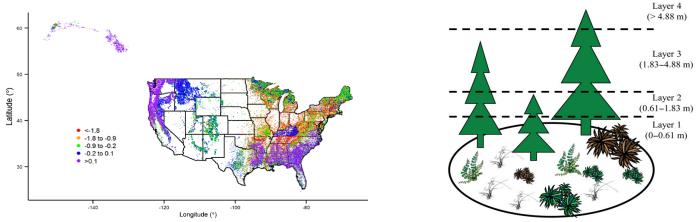


Development timeline for C reporting



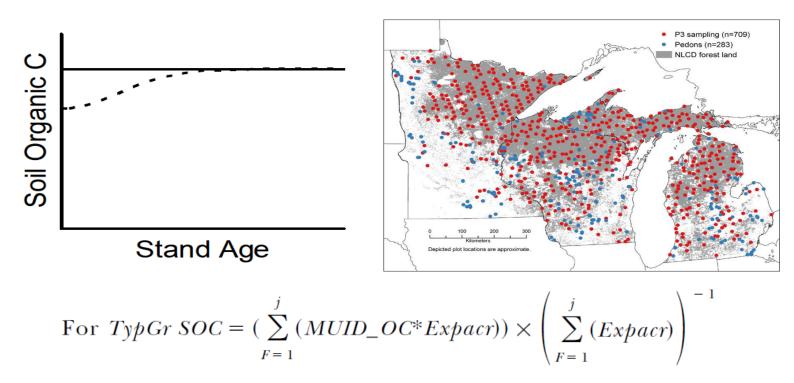
Continuous pool refinement

- Litter estimates from in situ observations
- Understory vegetation model from in situ observations
- Belowground model with climate coefficients
- Foliage model from legacy data



Russell, M.B., et al. 2015. Climate-derived estimates of tree coarse root carbon in forests of the United States. *Carbon Balance and Management*Clough, B.J., et al. 2016. Comparing tree foliage biomass models fitted to a multi-species, felled-tree biomass dataset for the United States. *Ecological Modeling*Domke, G.M., et al. 2016. Estimating litter carbon stocks in forest ecosystems of the United States. *Science of the Total Environment*

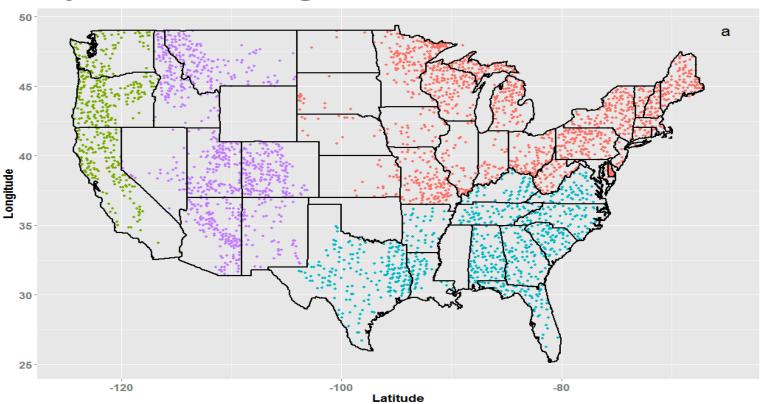
Example: soil organic carbon



Amichev, B. Y., & Galbraith, J. M. 2004. A revised methodology for estimation of forest soil carbon from spatial soils and forest inventory data sets. *Environmental Management*, 33(1), S74-S86.

Smith, James E.; Heath, Linda S.; Skog, Kenneth E.; Birdsey, Richard A. 2006. Methods for calculating forest ecosystem and harvested carbon with standard estimates for forest types of the United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-343. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 216 p

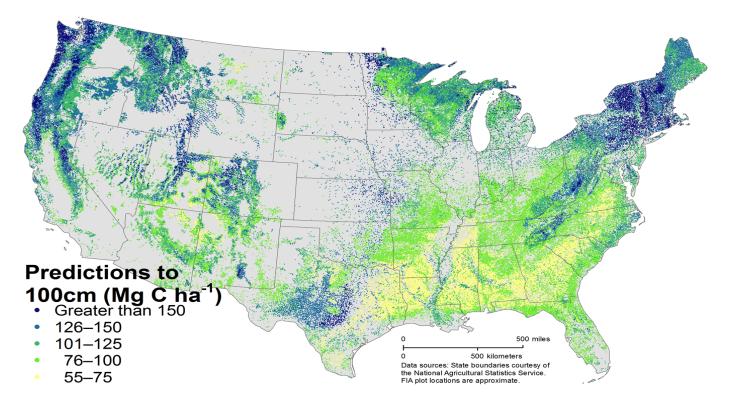
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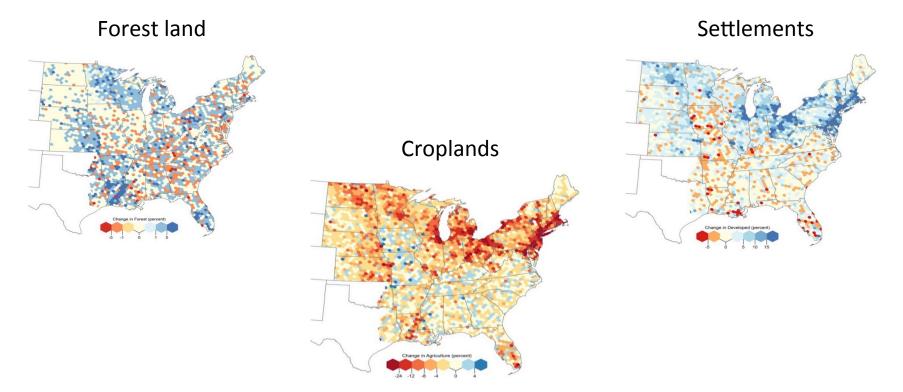
Smith, James E.; Heath, Linda S.; Skog, Kenneth E.; Birdsey, Richard A. 2006. Methods for calculating forest ecosystem and harvested carbon with standard estimates for forest types of the United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-343. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 216 p

Example: soil organic carbon

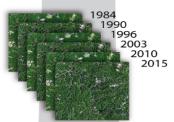


Domke, G.M., Perry, C.H., Walters, B.F., Woodall, C.W., Nave, L., Swanston, C. In preparation. Estimating soil organic matter carbon stocks on forest land in the United States. Intended outlet: Ecological Applications.

Land use and land use change



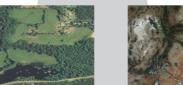
Landsat Time Series



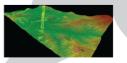
National Land Cover Database



NAIP Imagery



LiDAR



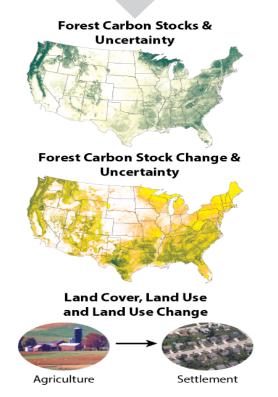
MTBS

MODIS

Imagery



Carbon Accounting System



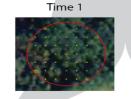
Carbon Estimates for Every Year

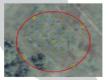
Annual Inventory





Image-based Change Analysis Time 1 Time 2





Final thoughts

- The national forest inventory remains the foundation of forest carbon estimates for the US
- Working on forest land conversions is relatively new for the US
- Think about GHG monitoring and reporting as a continuous system across all lands
- Must work with other land use categories to ensure internal consistency
 - Methods development for C transfer from land conversions (e.g., SOC)
 - Avoid double counting and ensure complete accounting



Using NFI data and satellite imagery for estimating emissions and removals

Research Forester
USFS Northern Research Station





Outline

- IPCC guidance on carbon reporting
- U.S. National Forest Inventory
- Dense time series satellite imagery
- Example from research study
- Results using different approaches

IPCC guidance concerning NFI

- Not required, but can be used
- Design-based sampling
- Multiple measurements yields change
- Emissions or removals factors (EF/RF) for REDD+ strata
- Tier 3 for AGC pool
- Focus on forest land and remaining forest land
- Stock change approach, rather than gain-loss

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

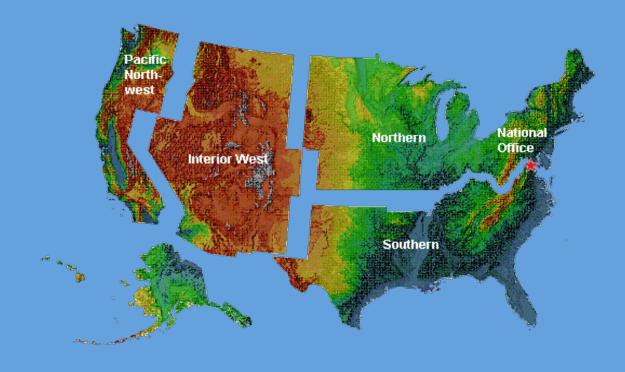
- U.S. Forest Service program
- Forest status and trends
- Strategic survey



Credit: USDA Forest Service

The FIA program

- Implemented regionally
- Use common standards

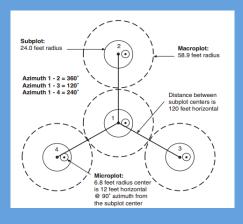


Sampling frame and plot design

- 1 plot per ~2,400 ha
- 5-10 year cycle
- Quasi-systematic sample







Field measurements

Plot Location

Elevation

Condition

Land cover

Ownership

Stand age

Slope

Disturbance

Tree

Status

Species

Diameter

Height

Damage

Modeled attributes

- Forest type
- Volume
- Biomass
- Carbon pools



Credit: USDA Forest Service

Population estimates

- Design-based inference
- Source of uncertainty is sample
- Determined by sample design
- Post-stratified estimators
- Design weights equal within each stratum
- Estimates of current state or change
- Use auxiliary data to improve precision

From IPCC guidance

- Gain-loss approach from NFI alone
 - No map
- Gain-loss approach with stratified estimator
 - Thematic map
- Stock change approach with model-assisted regression estimator
 - Continuous map

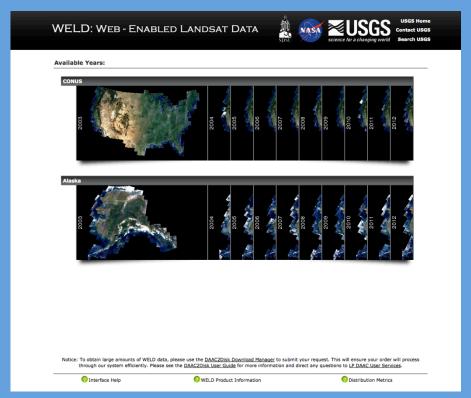
Landsat 7 ETM+

- 8 bands
- 15m 60m pixel resolution
- 16 day period

Band No.	Wavelength (µm)	GSD (m)
8 PAN	0.52 - 0.90	13 x 15
1 VIS	0.45 - 0.52	30 x 30
2 VIS	0.53 - 0.61	30
3 VNIR	0.63 - 0.69	30
4 VNIR	0.78 - 0.90	30
5 SWIR	1.55 - 1.75	30
7 SWIR	2.09 - 2.35	30
6 TIR	10.4 - 12.5	60

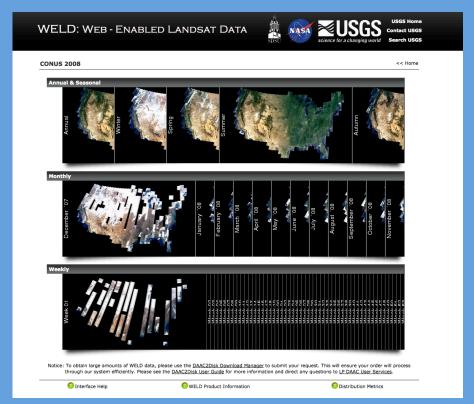
Web-Enabled Landsat Data (WELD)

- Pre-processed
- Ortho-rectified
- TOA reflectance
- Monthly composites



WELD record

- Decade of images
- 2003-2012
- Two 5-year FIA cycles



Credit: WELD

WELD tiles

- Tile = 5,000 by 5,000 pixels
- Study area = single tile
- Complex landscape in terms of LULUCF



Credit: WELD

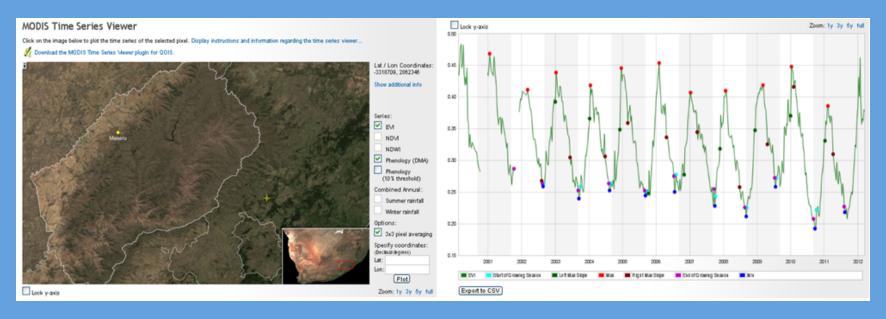
Issue #1: data gaps

Clouds and missing data



Credit: USGS/NASA

Issue #2: seasonality



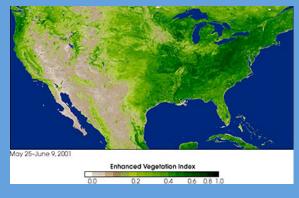
Credit: Wide Area Monitoring Information System (WAMIS)

Image processing

- How to handle gaps?
- How to characterize seasonal patterns?
- Harmonic regression of monthly composites







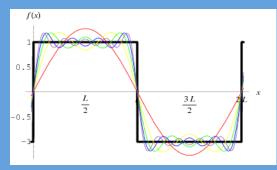
MODIS images of seasonal cycle in the contiguous United States during 2001. (Credit: NASA/GSFC/University of Arizona)

Fourier series

Fourier series equation

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)$$

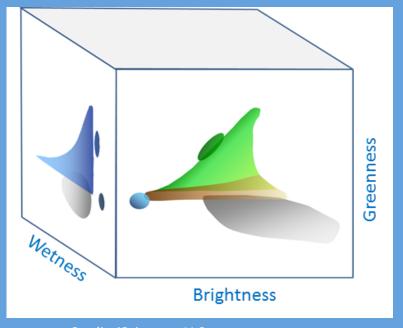
Adding harmonics



Credit: Wolfram Research, Inc.

Tasseled Cap (TC)

- Transformation of ETM+ bands
- Brightness
- Greenness
- Wetness



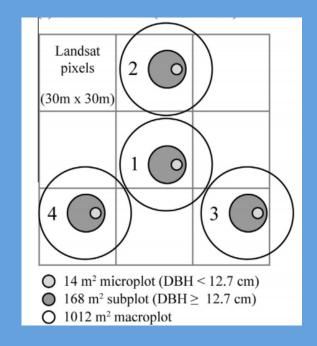
Credit: iSciences, LLC

Fourier series coefficients

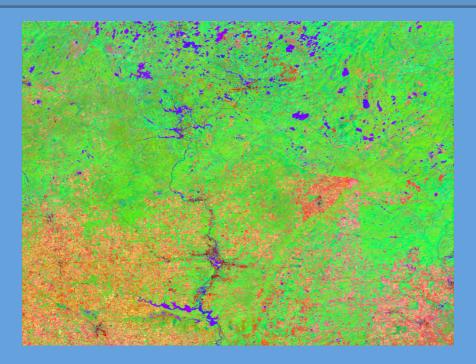
- Two harmonics per series
- Fit to each 60-month time period
- 3 TC x 5 FS x 2 time periods = 30 features

Issue #3: spatial mismatch

- Plots larger than pixels
- Mean of 3x3 window

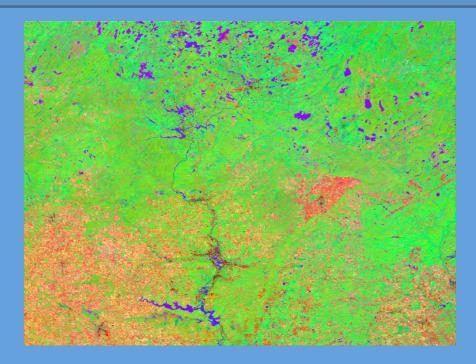


Time period 1



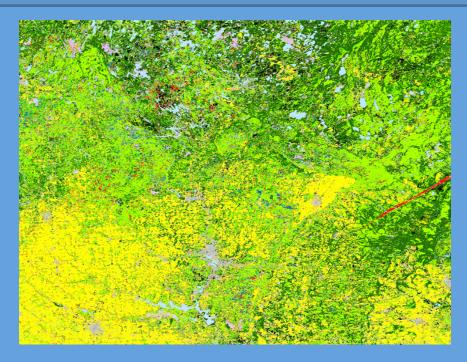
RGB = mean(brightness, greenness, wetness)

Time period 2



RGB = mean(brightness, greenness, wetness)

Thematic map of change



ISODATA classification on all 30 features

Revisiting IPCC guidance

- Gain-loss approach from NFI alone
 - No map
- Gain-loss approach with stratified estimator
 - Thematic map



- Stock change approach with model-assisted regression estimator
 - Continuous map

Model-based inference

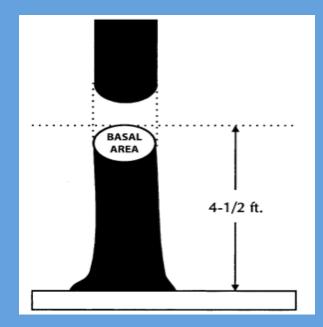
- Borrow strength
- Useful with auxiliary variables
- Reductions in variance, but...
 - Depends on strength of relationship
 - Potential for bias
- All maps are models

"All models are wrong; some models are useful."

George Box

Response variable

- Land cover rather than use
- Tree canopy cover ~ basal area
- Basal area
- Proxy for AGC
- 1,446 re-measured plots (2003-2012)

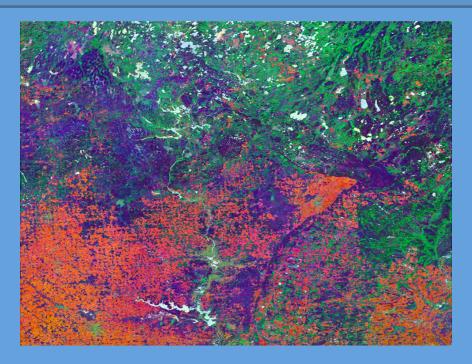


Credit: Woodland Stewardship

Predictor variables

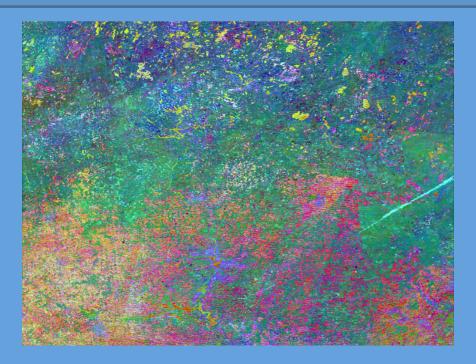
- Principal Components Analysis (PCA)
- Multivariate data transformation
- Standardized and orthogonal components
- First 8 components ~ 93% of variance

RGB=PCA(1,2,3)



Principal axes of variability

RGB=PCA(1,5,7)

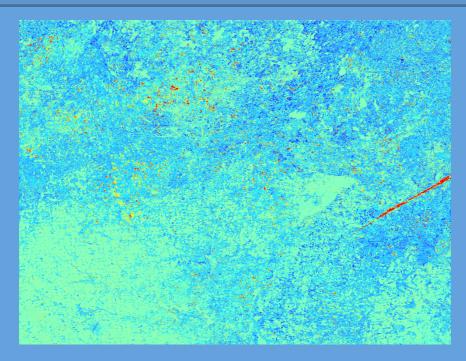


Principal axes of change

The kNN estimator

- Non-parametric
 - No assumptions about relationship
- Weighted average of k-nearest neighbors
 - Not nearest in geographic space
 - Nearest in feature space

Change in basal area



Pixel values are estimates of EF/RF

Relative change in basal area

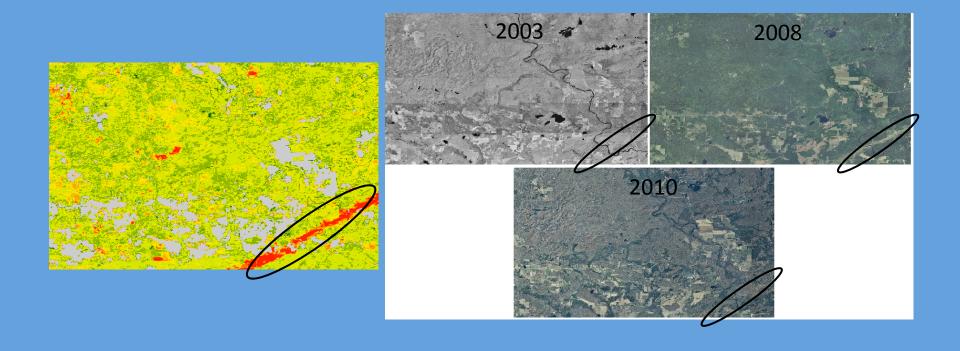


Estimated EF or RF / basal area in time period 1

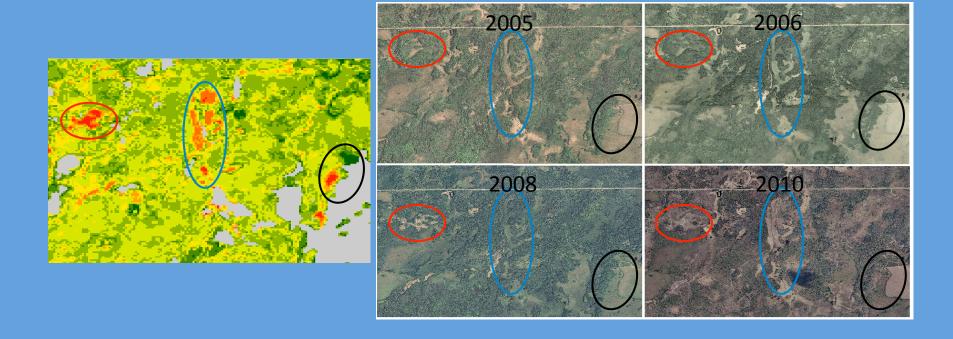
Comparison to photos

- Multi-date aerial photos
- Langlade County
 - 2003, 2008, & 2010
- Price County
 - 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, & 2011

Langlade County



Price County



Revisiting IPCC guidance

- Gain-loss approach from NFI alone
 - No map
- Gain-loss approach with stratified estimator
 - Thematic map



- Stock change approach with model-assisted regression estimator
 - Continuous map

Combining uncertainties

- Ultimately interested in removals/emissions
- For gain-loss, the product of two sets of random variables

Relative efficiency (RE)

- Measure of precision of estimator
- Sample size multiplier
- Ratio of variances

RE = benchmark/alternative estimator variance

NFI results: plots

	Plots by land use				Period 2			
	r lots by laria asc	Water	Forest land	Cropland	Grassland :	Settlements \	Wetlands	Grand Total
	Water	50.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.75	58.25
	Forest land	0.00	806.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	3.25	814.25
d 1	Cropland	0.00	6.25	327.50	18.50	8.25	0.00	360.50
ri Ö	Grassland	0.00	8.75	5.00	25.25	1.00	1.75	41.75
Pe	Settlements	1.00	2.50	0.25	0.50	83.75	0.00	88.00
	Wetlands	10.25	11.50	0.25	3.00	2.00	47.25	74.25
	Grand Total	61.75	836.00	335.00	47.25	99.00	58.00	1437.00

NFI results: area

Area	(ha) by land use				Period 2			
Aica	(may by mana use	Water	Forest land	Cropland	Grassland	Settlements	Wetlands	Grand Total
W	/ater	79071	1566	0	0	1566	9003	91206
Fo	orest land	0	1262004	1 3132	0	4697	5089	1274922
두 Cr	ropland	0	9786	5 512787	28967	12918	C	564457
은 Gr	rassland	0	13700	<mark>)</mark> 7829	39535	1566	2740	65371
۾ Se	ettlements	1566	3914	<mark>1</mark> 391	783	131133	C	137787
W	/etlands	16049	18006	391	4697	3132	73982	116258
Gr	rand Total	96686	1308977	7 524530	73982	155010	90814	2250000

NFI results: annual EF/RF

	Annual removals tor (m²/ha) by land				Period 2			
	use	Water	Forest land	Cropland	Grassland	Settlements \	Wetlands	Grand Total
	Water	0.00	6.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12
	Forest land	0.00	0.19	-3.40	0.00	-3.02	-1.18	0.16
d 1	Cropland	0.00	1.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
_	Grassland	0.00	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44
Pe	Settlements	0.00	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
	Wetlands	0.00	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25
	Grand Total	0.00	0.26	-0.02	0.00	-0.09	-0.07	0.14

NFI results: annual emissions/removals

	Annual removals				Period 2			
	(m ²) by land use	Water	Forest land	Cropland	Grassland :	Settlements	Wetlands	Grand Total
	Water	0	10938	0	0	0	0	10938
	Forest land	0	238254	-10641	0	-14192	-5986	207435
d 1	Cropland	0	17968	3 0	0	0	0	17968
rio	Grassland	0	28666	0	0	0	0	28666
Pe	Settlements	0	13037	<mark>7</mark> 0	0	0	O	13037
	Wetlands	0	28786	0	0	0	0	28786
	Grand Total	0	337648	-10641	0	-14192	-5986	306829

SE=33,028 m² RSE=10.8%

Stratified results: plots

Plots by land use		Reference							
r lots by latia use	Water	Forest	Cropland	Grassland	Settlements	Wetlands	Grand Total		
Water	45.75	4.5	5 1	0.25	2	7.25	60.75		
Forest	7.25	750.75	9.5	4.75	23.25	21.75	817.25		
Cropland	C) 16	288.25	31	23	6.75	365		
ল Grassland	1.5	14.5	15.75	5.5	11.25	3.5	52		
Settlements	2.25	32	13.25	3.5	35	7	93		
Wetlands	5	18.25	7.25	2.25	4.5	11.75	49		
Grand Total	61.75	836	335	47.25	99	58	1437		

Stratified results: proportions

Weighte	d				Reference				User's
proportio	ns	Water F	orest	Cropland	Grassland	Settlements	Wetlands	weight	accuracy
Water		0.025605	0.002519	0.00056	0.00014	0.001119	0.004058	0.034	75.31%
Forest		0.0057	0.590231	0.007469	0.003734	0.018279	0.0171	0.642513	91.86%
_ Croplan	d	0	0.008711	0.156936	0.016878	0.012522	0.003675	0.198722	78.97%
ভ Grasslar	nd	0.001019	0.009846	0.010695	0.003735	0.007639	0.002377	0.03531	10.58%
Settlem	ents	0.001409	0.020036	0.008296	0.002191	0.021915	0.004383	0.058231	37.63%
Wetland	ds	0.003186	0.011629	0.00462	0.001434	0.002868	0.007487	0.031224	23.98%
Total		0.036918	0.642973	0.188576	0.028112	0.064342	0.039079	1	
Producer	r's							Overall	80.59%
accuracy	У	69.36%	91.80%	83.22%	13.29%	34.06%	19.16%	Карра	64.20%
RE		2.518	2.7587	3.440	1.393	1.265	1.089		

- Large gains in RE for AD in W, FL, and CL
- Smaller gains in RE for AD in GL, S, and WL

Stratified results: annual removals

Annual removals Reference										
(m ²) by land use	Water	Fores	t land	Cropland	Grassland	Settlen	nents	Wetlands	Grand 1	Total
Grand Total		0	337648	3 -10641		0	-14192	-5986		306829

SE=32,839 m² RSE=10.7% RE=1.012

Model-assisted regression estimator

- Model doesn't have to be parametric
- Works with results from any continuous model

Estimate mean EF/RF =

Mean (all pixels) – mean of residuals (sampled pixels)

Variance of estimated mean =

Variance of mean of residuals

MAR results: annual removals

Annual removals	Period 2							
(m ²) by land use	Estimated total	Estimated bias	Bias-corrected					
			estimated total					
Grand Total	415563	74315	341248					

SE=30,475 m² RSE=8.9% RE=1.175

Conclusions for study area

- Deforestation is a small percentage of change
- Too few plots for reliable estimates
- Removals mostly within FL remaining FL
- Relative uncertainty in EF/RF greater than in AD
- Stratification did not result in substantial RE gains for annual removals, but MAR did
- Satellite imagery increased precision of estimates

Forest Service Contacts and Website

- Grant Domke: gmdomke@fs.fed.us
- Ty Wilson: barrywilson@fs.fed.us
- Forest Inventory Analysis Program: http://www.fia.fs.fed.us

Contacts

- ARSET Land Management and Wildfire Contacts
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 - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov





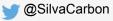
Applied Remote Sensing Training

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Thank You

Next Week:

Accuracy Assessments

